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Roxana Chapin Gerdine to Emily McKinstry Chapin (1863 March 21)

Roxana Chapin Gerdine

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I send you a return Stamp Confederate, put
both on the postage here is six cents

West Point, Va. 21st

Dear Sister Emily

I am afraid that my many attempts to correspond
with you all at home will prove failures, as I have already written
you several since hearing from you. I am feeling very dispirited
as a few weeks even bring so many changes and it has been now
a year and a half since I have heard a word from the north. But I
will hope for the best. We are all usually well now. Joe is with
us and able to ride a little on horseback. I think you have heard
through the northern journals of the death of my oldest and best friend
in Gen. V. R. R. Cobb. But it is a sad day to me and I must not
commence on a sad theme or I shall be unable to write at all. I wrote
you a long letter about a month since and am looking daily for reply.

If it is a possible thing, and I hear from you that Father is
living I shall go north. You need not look for I shall come just
when I can get an opportunity to travel either via Memphis or Richmond.
Now you know there is hardly another lady in the Confederacy that with
two children to carry would attempt such a journey, so of course Mr
Caroline could not accompany me. I never should attempt it only to see
Father as Mr Caroline is terribly opposed to it. Write me all you can on one
page. But do not allude to military affairs, and send me a few stamps as I can
not procure any here till one if there is much trouble in the money matter there
and now Father is getting along. I wrote in my other letter that Annie & Ellie
Prayford would write you when ^{any better way} convenient if you do not. ^{any better way} Write to me
as I do to Mrs Gen Caroline West Point. Gen. Brig. Gen. J. H. Winder, Commanding
Department of Henrico, Richmond Va. By Flag of Blue. I expect William Lawrence
can ascertain for you the proper northern direction. I do not know how much I
want to see you all if Father is living and I can possibly get across the
line I shall spend the summer with him, but our plans are so often dis-
torted that I am afraid to think much about it. I feel now that I have
scarcely any thing to live for, but I reckon my life is spent for something